

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Beginning Farmer

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Beginning Farmer		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Will field borders, buffers, or cropland conversion to permanent vegetation practices be implemented OR will other practices be implemented that directly benefit threatened, endangered and/or at-risk wildlife species (plant or animal) as identified by NRCS (Area Biologist), TN Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Does this application help the producer implement a conservation system that has at least one identified resource concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Will this application contain at least one (1) practice that reduces erosion on highly erodible fields or treats gullied areas?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. If livestock are present, will practices that exclude livestock from environmentally sensitive areas (examples of sensitive areas are streams, wetlands, riparian buffers, etc.) be implemented? Mark NO if no livestock are present.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Is this application ONLY for practices identified as Priority Practices: Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (102); Conservation Cover (327) for Native Warm Season Grass planting for cropland conversion; Cover Crop (340) with 5 species soil health mix; Critical Area Planting (342); Filter Strip (393); Grade Stabilization Structure (410); Grassed Waterway (412); Forage and Biomass Planting (512) for cropland conversion; Terrace (600); Tree and Shrub Establishment (612) for cropland conversion; and Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Does the application contain practices that incorporate the use of Native Warm Season Grasses (NWSG), trees, shrubs, or forbs?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Will practices that directly benefit a stream on the 303(d) list (2012 or later version) be implemented as a result of this application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Will practices that improve the soil conditioning index (SCI) by at least 0.25 be implemented?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Has the applicant ever had an EQIP contract terminated within the participants control in the last 5 years OR has applicant ever destroyed or failed to maintain a practice for its designated life span (NRCS technical errors excluded as determined by the Area Conservationist)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Does the applicant plan to finish all practices within 2 years; or if a soil health cover crop contract, plan to finish all practices within 3 years, after approval of a contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Will the completion of the contract result in livestock being excluded from or have limited access to all streams, water bodies, wetland areas, etc., according to NRCS standards and specifications?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Will the completion of the contract result in the reduction of soil loss by 0.5 ton or more?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Will the completion of the contract result in the installation of a Prescribed Grazing System (Code 528) in	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

accordance with a grazing plan that meets NRCS standards and specifications?	
5. Will the completion of the contract result in soil testing every 3 to 5 years and the application of lime and fertilizer according to soil test recommendations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

Efficiency: Local Issues: State Issues: National Issues: Final Ranking Score:
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This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative: Signature Date:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy: Signature Date:
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